

ZONEBEAT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE *east london idz*



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LOOKING AHEAD: VISION 2030 CORPORATE PLAN

The ELIDZ Vision 2030 Corporate Plan is a bold roadmap that redefines the entity's role in shaping the Eastern Cape's industrial and innovative landscape. This strategic plan signals a decisive shift from operating solely as a special economic zone to becoming a dynamic economic hub focused on inclusive growth, technological advancement, and regional transformation.



OUR NEW VISION

A globally recognised hub of innovative industries and technologies that

- transform the Eastern Cape industrial base and
- drive the sustainable development of enterprises and communities

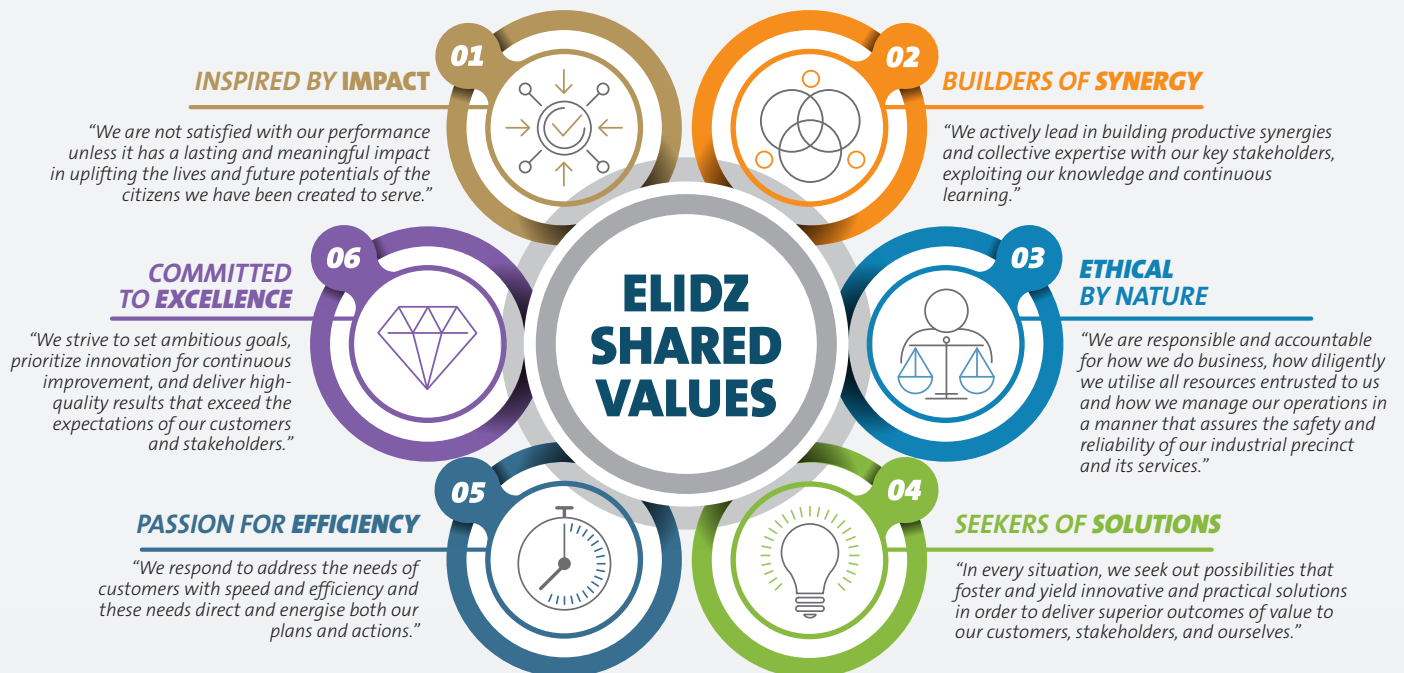


NEW MISSION

To attract and sustain investment activities that grow the region's industrial productivity through:

- the operation of a world-class investment location and the optimisation of a supportive innovative ecosystem.

ELIDZ SHARED VALUES – Our Core Ideology



STRATEGIC PILLARS

1 EXPANDING THE INDUSTRIAL FOOTPRINT

including SEZ precinct expansion and infrastructure development

2 DEVELOPING LOCAL INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITY

through innovation, enterprise development, and integration of township and rural economies

3 DRIVING ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

diversifying revenue, leveraging intellectual capital, and using data-driven delivery

OUR SECTOR FOCUS AREAS



AUTOMOTIVE



AQUACULTURE



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



DIGITAL ECONOMY



AGRI INDUSTRIES



LOGISTICS



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

SKILLS INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION

The STP will continue leading in skills training, entrepreneur support, intellectual property services, and advancements in circular and digital economies.

PARTNERSHIPS

The organisation will strengthen collaboration with government, industry, academia and investors to create shared economic value.

Vision 2030 repositions the entity as a long-term driver of industrial transformation and regional prosperity, placing the Eastern Cape firmly on the global industrial map.



POSITIONED FOR PROGRESS: ALIGNING LEADERSHIP AND VISION FOR 2030

From Left to Right:
Mr B. Mpondo, Ms N. Mnconywa,
Mr S. Gqalangi, Ms N. Penxa,
Ms N. Sonjani, Mr M. Mlota, Dr Z. Dweba,
Mr M. Mfuleni (Chairperson), Ms P. Dhlamini,
Mr T. Zweni (ELIDZ CEO), Cllr B. Sauli

As the ELIDZ builds on more than two decades of industrial success, it remains focused on deepening its impact as a catalyst for sustainable economic development, investment attraction, and innovation in the Eastern Cape.

With 40 operational investors, over 5,000 active jobs, and eight consecutive clean audits, it continues to deliver on its mandate of driving regional industrialisation and inclusive growth.

In support of this ongoing work, the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) has confirmed the appointment of five new Board members for a term of five-years. This leadership structure plays an essential role in providing strategic oversight, governance, and alignment with broader provincial and national development priorities.

Chaired by Mr. Motse Mfuleni, the Board brings together a dynamic team of professionals with extensive expertise across governance, finance, technology, industry, and policy. Their collective guidance will be instrumental as the organisation enters a new phase of growth aligned with its Vision 2030 Corporate Plan.

With strong leadership in place and a clear strategy anchored in innovation, skills development, and industrial capability building, the entity is well-positioned to expand its contribution to the region's socio-economic transformation.

The organisation remains committed to strengthening partnerships, developing high-growth sectors, and delivering long-term value to investors, communities, and the broader provincial economy.

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE: ADVANCING SKILLS TRANSFER THROUGH TRAINING

At the heart of the ELIDZ's innovation strategy is its Science and Technology Park (STP), a dedicated hub for equipping individuals with future-ready skills in high-impact sectors.

Over the past three months, the STP has successfully rolled out a series of impactful training programmes aimed at empowering participants and driving inclusive economic growth across the Eastern Cape. These interventions form part of the ongoing efforts to bridge the digital and industrial skills gap while supporting youth development and innovation.

It hosted multiple Design Thinking and Innovation Workshops, which introduced participants to creative problem-solving techniques and innovation tools. These sessions fostered entrepreneurial thinking and encouraged participants to approach real-world challenges with a solution-driven mindset.

To build local capacity in the green economy, Green Hydrogen Technology Training sessions were delivered to participants from various backgrounds interested in the green economy. Participants explored the full hydrogen value chain, from production and storage to its application in the clean energy transition, aligning with the ELIDZ's sustainable energy focus.

In response to the growing demand for digital and creative skills, two Game Development and Animation Workshops were facilitated. Aspiring digital artists and developers gained hands-on experience in storytelling, character design, animation, and game mechanics, essential skills for entering the creative tech space.

Industry 4.0 readiness was further supported through CAD and Additive Manufacturing Training workshops, where participants developed practical skills in digital design and 3D printing. These workshops supported innovation in engineering, design, and advanced manufacturing.

Additionally, an Intellectual Property Workshop brought together SMMEs, innovators, and creators to better understand how to protect and monetise their ideas. The session highlighted the importance of intellectual property rights in unlocking long-term value for entrepreneurs.

To extend the STP's impact, training workshops also reached communities within the Chris Hani and Amathole Districts, offering digital skills development to youth in rural areas.

These outreach efforts provided access to essential digital knowledge for underserved learners, helping bridge the digital divide and unlock new opportunities for participation in the innovative value chain.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate a strong commitment to building a competitive, innovative-ready workforce in the Eastern Cape. Through focused, high-impact interventions, the ELIDZ continues to foster inclusive growth and open new pathways for employment, entrepreneurship, and industrial transformation.



EC PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE OVERSIGHT VISIT

The ELIDZ recently welcomed the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism for an important oversight visit to its Innovation Hub, the Science and Technology Park (STP).

Mr. Motse Mfuleni, Chairperson of the ELIDZ Board, welcomed the Committee and reiterated the entity's commitment to driving inclusive growth and transformation across the Eastern Cape economy.

During the visit, the delegation toured the facility and engaged with Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) benefiting from the various innovation programmes.

Ms. Ludwe Macingwane, Head of the STP, shared key achievements including:

- **Supporting over 523 entrepreneurs through an incubation programme.**
- **Training over 3 000 individuals in skills aligned to ICT engineering, manufacturing, and design.**
- **Assisting over 300 entrepreneurs with intellectual property and advisory legal services.**



- **Supporting more than 20 prototypes under development for commercialisation.**
- **Facilitating learnership and internship focused on youth empowerment.**

The Committee praised the STP's measurable impact on the province's innovation and economic transformation agenda.

As South Africa prioritises industrialisation and skills development, the ELIDZ-STP remains a vital platform nurturing innovation from ideas to market-ready products.

The ELIDZ extends its gratitude to the Portfolio Committee for its continued support and remains committed to working together to foster a thriving and inclusive economy.

NEW CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER JOINS EXECUTIVE TEAM

We are pleased to highlight a significant leadership milestone within the ELIDZ. As of 01 June 2025, Mrs. Ayanda Ramncwana officially assumed the role of Chief Operations Officer (COO), marking a proud moment for the ELIDZ.

With over 22 years of dedicated service, Mrs. Ramncwana is one of the longest-serving members of the ELIDZ team. Her appointment reflects both her deep-rooted understanding of the organisation and her unwavering commitment to its vision of industrial transformation and regional economic development.

Mrs. Ramncwana has played an integral role in shaping the ELIDZ's strategic direction over the years. Her leadership has helped strengthen the organisation's international investment appeal and operational efficiency. In her new role, she is now responsible for overseeing and driving key operational portfolios including:

- **Investment Promotion and Aftercare**
- **Zone Development**
- **Maintenance and Facilities Management**
- **Property Management**
- **Innovation**



A seasoned professional, Mrs. Ramncwana holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master's Degree in Media Studies, both from Nelson Mandela University. She continues to be a strong advocate for inclusive growth and empowerment through Special Economic Zones in South Africa.

Her appointment also serves as a celebration of strong female leadership within the industrial development space, reinforcing our commitment to transformation and excellence.

We congratulate Mrs. Ramncwana once again and wish her continued success as she leads with integrity, insight and purpose.

EASTERN CAPE'S DIGITAL ECONOMY BOOSTED BY EXPANDED CISCO EDGE CENTRE AT ELIDZ



Cisco, WomHub, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) and the ELIDZ have officially launched the expanded Cisco EDGE Centre at the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP). This is now the third WomHub-powered site in South Africa.

The expanded Centre represents a major step forward in digital innovation and inclusive growth in the Eastern Cape. It will support small and medium enterprises (SMMEs), especially women-led businesses, by providing greater access to digital tools, resources and business development support.

Services now include:

- **Targeted development programmes for women entrepreneurs**
- **Certification courses in key digital areas such as cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI)**
- **Learning pathways to help bridge digital skills gaps and improve economic participation**

This initiative aligns with South Africa's National Development Plan 2030, which focuses on youth empowerment, digital inclusion and job creation through innovation.

At the time of the event, then Acting Chief Operations Officer Ricardo de Beer said, "Through our Science and Technology Park, we are committed to driving innovation by supporting economic growth and digital transformation. Our goal is to nurture sustainable small and medium enterprises for long-term success."

The launch event gathered government, industry leaders and entrepreneurs, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for digital entrepreneurs. A panel discussion explored key themes, including market access, mentorship and enterprise readiness.

The Cisco EDGE Centre adds to the organisation's growing innovation ecosystem, which includes enterprise development, tech incubation and future skills training. It will play a vital role in preparing local entrepreneurs for the demands of the digital economy.

As the entity champions inclusive growth and technology-driven development, the expanded EDGE Centre stands as a powerful example of partnership driving meaningful impact.

"Through our Science and Technology Park, we are committed to driving innovation by supporting economic growth and digital transformation. Our goal is to nurture sustainable small and medium enterprises for long-term success."



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: QUARTER 1 CSI INITIATIVES FOR 2025/26 FY

Through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme, the ELIDZ continues to champion community upliftment in the Eastern Cape. In Quarter 1 of the 2025/26 financial year, several initiatives have been rolled out, reflecting a strong commitment to sport and youth empowerment, agriculture development, and enterprise support. Each initiative aims to foster long-term growth, inclusiveness, and social progress.

Sports and Youth Development

Recognising the transformative power of sport, brand-new sporting equipment was donated to the Young Killers Football Club in Rura Village, Peddie. This initiative reaffirms the commitment to empowering young people with tools for growth, teamwork, and self-discipline.

Sport does more than provide recreation. It instills resilience, unity, and ambition. By supporting grassroots clubs like Young Killers FC, the organisation is investing in stronger, more vibrant communities filled with promise and purpose.

Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship

Under the theme “Skills for the Changing World – Empowering Youth for Meaningful Economic Participation,” the ELIDZ took part in the 2025 Eastern Cape Provincial Youth Day celebrations held in the Chris Hani District, Emalahleni Local Municipality.

As part of the programme, sewing equipment was donated to a young female-owned SMME based in Qoqodala Village, under the Emalahleni Local Municipality. This contribution will support the business’s growth and unlock more opportunities in the local community. It reflects a broader commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs, fostering self-reliance, and enabling inclusive development across the province.

Empowering Agriculture and Sustainable Development

In collaboration with the Gompo Farmers Association, agricultural production inputs were donated to the Zikhova community in Tsholomnqa during a vibrant Farmers’ Day celebration. The event brought together local farming stakeholders to share ideas and strengthen partnerships.

Four beneficiaries, two cooperatives and two subsistence farmers, received vital resources to boost their farming operations, contributing to improved food security and enhanced livelihoods. This initiative demonstrates unwavering dedication to sustainable rural development and inclusive economic participation within the agricultural sector.





THE ELIDZ - WHERE INNOVATION MEETS OPPORTUNITIES TAILORED FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY AND GROWTH

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) is a standing model of business excellence, providing cutting-edge, compelling and comprehensive services carefully designed to foster growth and empower your business.

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) delivers outstanding services and offers businesses the opportunity to flourish in this rapidly expanding industry. Having been awarded three International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certificates for ICT standards: ISO 27001, ISO 27017 and ISO 27018 – the ELIDZ demonstrates its steadfast commitment to proactively maintain the highest security standards. With offerings ranging from cybersecurity to software development, the ELIDZ is dedicated to supporting the growth of companies across ICT niches.

Our ICT offering is as follows:

- **Infrastructure Solutions:** *Optimising your ICT infrastructure to ensure seamless connectivity and enhanced data security.*
- **Software Solutions:** *We deliver reliable and scalable solutions that drive digital transformation.*
- **BaaS & DRaaS:** *We've got your off-site backup and disaster recovery compliance needs covered.*
- **IT Support and Managed Services:** *With our ICT savvy specialists and managed services, you can focus on your core business while take care of your ICT needs.*

Strategically positioned on key trade routes provides exceptional advantages to ICT companies with its proximity to major trade markets. Accessibility to transportation hubs such as the Port of East London and King Phalo Airport ensures seamless connectivity, enabling efficient logistics and distribution networks. This optimal, prime location not only boosts market reach, but also encourages partnerships on a global scale.

The ELIDZ offers investment incentives tailored to support ICT, making it an attractive choice for companies seeking to establish themselves in the Zone. Furthermore, efficient regulatory processes and support services

simplify business operations, allowing enterprises to focus on their growth. By partnering with various organisations, the ELIDZ fosters a collaborative environment that promotes knowledge exchange and skills development – laying the foundation for future innovation.

We also offer the following ICT services:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Cloud Services | • Fibre Connectivity |
| • Data Centre Colocation | • Telephony & Internet Services |

Leading the way in digital transformation, the ELIDZ ICT Sector continues to innovate, offering compelling services for business pursuing growth and opportunity. The ELIDZ represents an ideal starting point to unleash their full potential and shape the promising future of technology. Equipped with skilled, hands-on and tech savvy professionals, this industrial development zone is ready to drive innovation and meet the industry's ever-evolving demands.

With robust infrastructure and adaptable solutions, join the ELIDZ where innovation thrives without limits - offering boundless opportunities.

Explore the benefits our organisation offers today and experience how our bespoke tailored ICT services revolutionise your business operations.

Together, let's unlock new possibilities and propel your success to unprecedented heights.





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Host Your Next Event at the ELIDZ CONFERENCE CENTRE

The **State-of-the-Art** Conference
Facility for Every Occasion

Experience world-class conferencing at the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Conference Centre, where cutting-edge technology and exceptional service come together to create seamless events. Whether you are looking to host large functions, mid-size conferences, award ceremonies, intimate board meetings, the ELIDZ conference centre is the place for you. We tailor make our solution to your specific requirements.

Our venue features:

- **Advanced audio-visual equipment** – roving & lapel microphones, large, automated projector screens, overhead projectors, and DVD equipment.
- **Free Wi-Fi connection** available to conference attendees
- **Versatile event spaces** – four rooms that can be transformed into a grand venue, accommodating over 200 guests.
- **Custom seating arrangements** – perfect for conferences, banquets, workshops, and boardroom meetings.
- **Universal Accessibility** – The ELIDZ conference centre is designed to cater for the disabled.
- **Secured parking** is available within the facility including dedicated parking bays for the disabled.

Convenient Location

– Just 2km from the Airport!

Easily accessible and designed for efficiency, comfort, and sophistication, the ELIDZ Conference Centre is the ideal venue for your next gathering.

ELIDZ Conference Centre: Zone 1A, Lower Chester Road, Sunnyridge, East London
Co-ordinates: **33°03'23.4"S, 27°50'57.1"E**

Venue Capacity

Our venue offers flexible seating arrangements, accommodating up to 230 guests in cinema style, 150 for banqueting, 140 in classroom style, 142 in U-shape/horse shoe, and customizable boardroom setups for smaller groups.

Exceptional Catering to Keep Your Guests Energized

Our scrumptious meals leave you with a memorable experience. We offer breakfast menus, cocktail menus, and full buffet menu. Special Dietary requirements such as Halaal, Vegetarian and Vegan are available on request.

Standard conference catering package includes:

- Arrival tea, coffee & juice
- Mid-morning tea with savory snacks
- Hearty lunch with a soft drink
- Afternoon tea with biscuits

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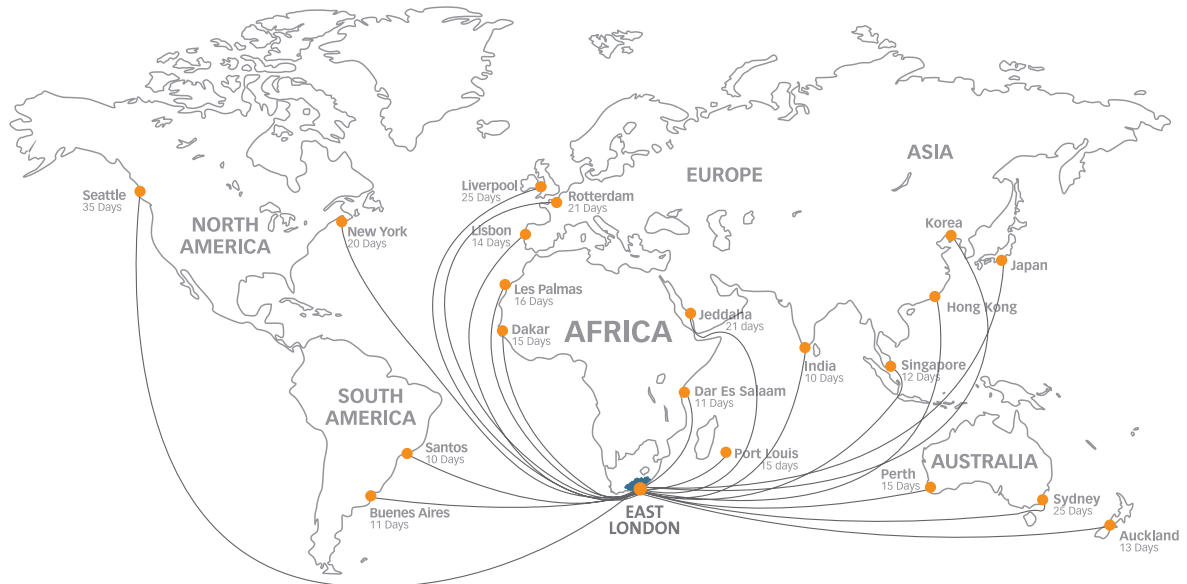
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